

FUKAZAWA - 10/681,253
Client/Matter: 042077-0316448

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 are amended and claims 8-43 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above-outlined amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 were objected to because of two informalities, which have been corrected in the amended claims. Claims 1-7 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Pack (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0053480). Applicants respectfully submit that the amended and new claims define subject matter that is patentable over Pack and the art of record. Pack does not describe each and every limitation required by each of the claims. As a result, it cannot anticipate any of claims 1-43.

In this regard amended independent claim 1 calls for a combination of elements including "an engine cover having a top angled downwards from a rear of the engine cover towards a front of the engine cover at an angle of about 23 degrees or greater from a horizontal line." New independent claim 9 requires, among other features, "engine cover providing, from an eye point in the cab, a forward line of sight of an angle of about 23 degrees or greater relative to and below a horizontal line." New independent claim 19 includes, as combined with other features, "a work apparatus moveable to a position in front of the vehicle frame such that a lowest point of the work apparatus and a lowest point of the vehicle drive module are generally on a horizontal plane and a top center portion of the work apparatus is visible from an eye point above the seat; and a cooling module for cooling the engine, the cooling module connected to the frame not between the eye point and the work apparatus at the position in front of the vehicle frame." New independent claim 35 recites a number of elements including, among them, "a vehicle frame having a horizontal portion and two vertical portions at lateral sides of the horizontal portion [and] a vehicle drive device connected to the horizontal portion of the vehicle frame through at least one of the two vertical portions." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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